

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
SITUATION REPORT #11
Water Shortage Emergency**

Wednesday, March 14, 2001 – 0900 Hours

This report contains the latest information for the period up to Wednesday, March 14, 2001. Revisions are in bold. Please refer to previous situation reports for past information. Note: Next situation Report – March 21, 2001.

Situation:

The South Florida Water Management District's Governing Board declared Phase III water shortage restrictions for the Lower East Coast (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties), and portions of Lake Okeechobee non-agricultural uses of Lake Okeechobee and connected waters within the Lake Okeechobee Service Area effective 03/28/01.

Phase II water shortage restrictions have been imposed for Collier, Lee and Hendry Counties, non-agricultural users in the Lake Okeechobee Basin and modified Phase II restrictions for Orange County. Phase III water restrictions have been imposed for agricultural users in the Lake Okeechobee Basin and the Indian Prairie Basin.

The Executive Director signed an Emergency Water Shortage Order terminating all withdrawals by permitted users from the C-23, C-24, and C-25 canals when those canals reach their minimum levels as set forth in Rule 40E-22.262. This Order also places exempt users on Phase II restrictions (e.g. domestic landscape irrigation).

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Short Term:

Some potential for significant rainfall this coming week.

Long Term:

Continued higher probability of below average rainfall through August.

WATER CONDITIONS (for the Week of March 7 to March 13, 2001)

Kissimmee Chain of Lakes:

Upper Kissimmee received **0.06** inches of rain. The water level in Lake Kissimmee was **48.78** ft NGVD (National Geodetic Vertical Datum, 1929) at the beginning of the week and **48.51** ft at the end of the week. The Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (Myrtle, Alligator, Mary Jane, Gentry, East Tohopekalgia and Tohopekalgia) showed some decline in water level. The average weekly decline was **0.06** ft.

The Lower Kissimmee area received **0.01** inches of rain. The water level in the C-40 canal was **20.38** ft at the beginning of the week and **19.16** ft at the end of the week. The C-41 canal was **19.07** ft at the beginning of the week and **19.25** ft at the end of the week. The water level in the C-41A canal was **24.71** ft at the beginning of the week and **23.69** ft at the end of the week. The water level in Lake Istokpoga was **36.66** ft at the beginning of the week and **36.30** ft at the end of the week. Lake Istokpoga was below its modified regulatory schedule.

Lake Okeechobee Service Area

Lake Okeechobee received **no rain**. The water level in Lake Okeechobee was **10.59** ft at the beginning of the week and **10.36** ft at the end of the week. The Lake was under Supply Side Management. Net outflow from the Lake was approximately **18,110** ac-ft through all structures. Of the major structures, S354 released approximately **1,299** ac-ft; S308 released approximately **1,968** ac-ft; **S-310 lock released approximately 597 ac-ft**; S352 released approximately **5,657** ac-ft; and S351 released approximately **6,191** ac-ft of water.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs)

The Water Conservation Areas received **0.05** of rain. The water level in WCA 1 was **13.77** ft at the beginning of the week and **13.90** ft at the end of the week. The water level in WCA 2 was **10.22** ft at the beginning of the week and **10.08** ft at the end of the week. WCA 2 was below its regulatory schedule during this period. The water level in WCA 3 was **8.93** ft at the beginning of the week and **8.83** ft at the end of the week. **WCA 1 and WCA 3 were below their regulatory schedules during this period.** Estimated average ground elevations for WCA 1, WCA 2, and WCA 3 are 14.0 ft, 11.0 ft and 7.5 ft, respectively. Structure S5AS released approximately **826** ac-ft of water from WCA 1 to the north via the L-8 canal.

Upper East Coast

The Upper East Coast received **no** rain. The water level in the C-23 canal was **14.32** ft at the beginning of the week and 14.01 ft at the end of the week. The water level in the C-24 canal was **14.06** ft at the beginning of the week and **14.55** ft at the end of the week. The water level in the C-25 canal was **14.79** ft at the beginning of the week and **14.62** ft at the end of the week.

Lower West Coast

The Lower West Coast received **0.03** inches of rain. Discharge from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee canal through structure S77 was approximately **2,204** ac-ft.

OPERATIONAL STATUS:

The District's EOC remains at a level 2 (partial) activation. The Citizen Information Line is activated during normal business hours (0830 hours to 1630 hours).

TEAM REPORTS:

WATER OPERATIONS:

- Developed next week's Lake Okeechobee supply side management allocation.

Operation Support:

- The balance of the electric submersible pumps structural components and manatee screens are all on site – **installation to commence 3/19/01 and completion on 4/08/01.**
- **Completed surveying for the installation of aquadams on C-51 to replace the existence of G124. Notice for a public meeting on 4/04/01.**

WATER SHORTAGE IMPLEMENTATION

Variance/Temporary Pumps

- **To date, received 604 variance requests – 243 requests have been approved.**
- **To date, received 16 requests for temporary pump authorization – 15 requests approved.**

Compliance/Enforcement

- **To date, 9,772 warnings and 2,757 tickets have been issued.**

Modified Water Supply Delivery Plans

- Revised reference state for Lake Okeechobee to 9.51' effective 3/05/01.
- Meeting with Palm Beach County water users regarding proposed LEC urban modified operation plan to deal with potential limitations on regional water supply deliveries to the coast. Preliminary recommendation for study to be developed this week.
- **Evaluating engineering solutions for Lake Okeechobee Utilities.**
- **Provided crane for installation of intake improvements for South Bay.**

Water Use Evaluation

- District-wide public water supply water use down 11% for week as compared with March/2000 average use.
- Notified each “at risk” utility of their status.
- Completed maps of LEC “at risk” utilities.
- Collected weekly chloride data for “at risk” LEC utilities.

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

- Produced weekly report on "Hydrologic Conditions for the Week of March 7 to March 13, 2001".
- Produced monthly "Water Shortage Conditions Report", (February, 2001 edition) for the Governing Board and public access over the external web site.
- Successfully installed telemetry for rapid reporting of water levels at key points in the Water Conservation Areas, Holeyland, and Rotenberger Tract.
- Continued to provide updates to internal and external water shortage web sites.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- Participated in water shortage teleconference with Division of Emergency Management, DEP, USACE and Water Management Districts.
- Conducted weekly teleconference with Service Centers.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- Continued refinement of the ecological hazard index for Holeyland/ Rotenberger and the Water Conservation Areas. Surveying WCA-1 and WCA-3A on 3/16/01 to determine the location, number and species composition of bird rookeries in these areas.
- Developing monitoring options in relation to lake stage for potential backflow and/or backpumping into Lake Okeechobee.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Citizen Outreach

- Citizen Information phone line received approximately 16,163 calls.
- Updated internal and external water shortage web sites.

LEGAL

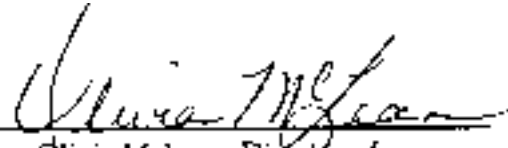
- Prepared and issued Order, effective 3/28/01, declaring Phase III water shortage restrictions for identified portions of the Lower East Coast and non-agricultural uses of Lake Okeechobee.
- Prepared Governing Board Motion directing staff to finalize a comprehensive Phase III implementation strategy.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Approximately 175 TV, radio and newspaper media contacts.
- Media buy of television and radio stations continue through March.
- Producing PSAs with message that focuses on severity of conditions.
- Developing partnership with *Home Depot* to distribute water shortage materials donated for 3rd place award for education campaign and water saving “give aways” for community and Earth Day Events.
- Developing partnership with *Publix* to distribute fliers in grocery bags and include restriction information in their Thursday food ads.

- **Scheduled employee training sessions on 3/21, 3/30 and 4/05 to communicate current conditions and outreach opportunities.**
- **Mailout to city and county administrators requesting assistance to help eliminate requirement to pressure clean solely for aesthetic purposes.**
- Preparing water shortage signs for homeowner's associations and businesses.
- Preparing posters for use in business windows.

Signed: 
 Joe Taylor, Deputy Executive Director
 Water Resources Operations


 Olivia McLean, Director of
 Emergency Management

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